

**Public Notice of the Draft Final Removal Action Work Plan and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration
at the Army National Training Center for
FTIR-38 Goldstone Lake Mortar/Small Arms Range and FTIR-40 Anti-Aircraft Range
Fort Irwin, California**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: June 30 through August 1, 2005

We invite you to comment on a Draft Final Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) and associated Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as part of a removal action at Fort Irwin (FTIR)-38, Area 2 and FTIR-40, Area 1.1 at Fort Irwin, California. The purpose of the removal action is to excavate and remove soil contaminated with lead and aluminum at FTIR-38, Area 2 and lead and copper at FTIR-40, Area 1.1.

The Army Environmental Center (AEC) is conducting these investigations at these two sites and has identified at FTIR-38, Area 2 (consists of 18 soil berms), lead, aluminum, and munitions metal scrap in the soil. Further investigations determined that groundwater was not impacted as a result of former site activities. The other site, FTIR-40, Area 1.1 consists of a small wash containing discarded metal debris. A soil mound with municipal waste debris and metal scrap is located within the site. Investigations at the site identified lead and copper along with munitions metal scrap in the soil. The investigations also determined that groundwater was not impacted by site activities. Previous environmental investigations at these two areas indicated soil contamination as described above and that a removal action was the appropriate response at these sites.

AEC evaluated five alternative actions to address the soil contamination at FTIR-38, Area 2 and FTIR-40, Area 1.1 including no action (leaving the contaminated soil in place). The Army's preferred alternative is excavation and off-site disposal at a permitted disposal facility. Approximately 1,000 tons of soil will be removed. Trucking of the soil will require about 4-8 weeks of activity for the removal action from August 2005 to September 2005. Implementation of the preferred alternative will be a key step in completing the removal response action at FTIR-38 and FTIR-40.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public review and comment on a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the proposed removal action. The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration indicates that the removal action will not have a significant negative effect on the environment.

We encourage the public to review and comment on the RAW and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (CEQA). The documents are available for review at the information repository located at the San Bernadino County Library, Barstow Branch, 304 East Buena Vista, CA 92311, telephone (760) 256-4850 (Open Monday and Wednesday 12pm -8pm, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 10am – 6pm, Saturday 9am -5pm, and closed on Sundays). The RAW and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review at DTSC, located at 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, California. Please contact the File Coordinators at (714) 484-5337 or 484-5336 for an appointment.

Written comments on the RAW and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration should be sent to both Major John Clearwater, Public Affairs Office, Attn: AFZJ-PA, P O Box 105067, Fort Irwin, CA 92310-5-67, his telephone number is (760) 380-3078 and Douglas Bautista, Project Manager for DTSC at 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, California 90630, his telephone number is (714) 484-5442. Comments on the RAW and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration must be postmarked no later than August 1, 2005.